

SJR 35

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Representing: The Montana Society of Engineers

Assignment: Come up with two to three reasons why your board should remain as a board given the assumption that all boards will be eliminated. Also provide two to three reasons why another board should or should not be abandoned.

Based on the assignment given at the last meeting I would argue that the board of Engineers and Land Surveyors is clearly justified.

1. The field is highly technical and broad board representation by practicing engineers who are working in the field daily is clearly needed to stay current with issues related to the profession.
2. This is clearly a profession that impacts public health and safety.
3. Montana's current board structure is consistent with the engineering board structure in neighboring states and nationwide.
4. Changes are currently underway on model licensing procedures that could impact Montana.
5. The state must interface with the National Council of Engineering Examiners to ensure Montana is not left behind on national licensure issues affecting the profession.
6. Technology is driving today's economy and as more technology comes on line there will be even more oversight needed to ensure public safety. Today, anyone with a computer program can attempt to provide some sort of engineering services without the benefit of training and knowledge to properly interpret and use the data provided by the computer programs.

As a second part of the assignment we were asked why should another board be abandoned. I personally don't feel right indicating the abandonment of another board with which I do not interact or know their activities. However one board did raise concerns simply based on the factual data. That is the board of private alternative adolescent residential or outdoor programs.

1. No licensing – there are only 44 potential registrants.
2. Four of the five peer states do not even regulate this activity.